

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) OLA
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2007 8:03 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Roskam Inquiry - firefighters

Importance: High

Attachments: firefigh.pdf



firefigh.pdf (175 KB)

Navy,

Please load into taskers per the email below. Add Louise as a chop. Thanks.

R,

LCDR (b) (6)
Office of Legislative Affairs
Deputy, Congressional Information and Public Affairs, Pentagon Room 4C549
Office: 703-695-9359 DSN 225

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) OLA, LA-6
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2007 8:01 AM
To: (b) (6) OLA
Subject: Roskam Inquiry - firefighters

(b) (6),

Can we upload this into taskers and add me as a chop? CNIC should be tasked on this inquiry.

Thanks!

(b) (6)



The Honorable Peter J. Roskam

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Washington, D.C. 20515
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202-225-1166 fax

☒ 150 S. Bloomingdale Road, Suite 200
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630-893-9670
630-893-9735 fax

To: (b) (6) Fax: 703-695-9891 Phone 703-697-2881

Date: 10-2-07 Phone: _____

From:

(b) (6)

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 4

COMMENTS: _____

PETER J. ROSKAM

6TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
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GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED
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October 2, 2007

Navy Installations Command
Congressional liaison
2713 Mitscher Road, SW Ste. 300
Anacostia Annex, DC 20373-5802

Dear Congressional liaison,

My constituent, Mr. (b) (6) has requested my office to make an inquiry regarding the closing of Fire stations on Ft. Sheridan. Please see the letter from Mr. (b) (6) with his perspective and the notes of his meeting with my District Director (b) (6) (b) (6)

I would greatly appreciate any information you are able to provide. If you have any further questions or need clarification please contact my staff member, Miss. (b) (6) (b) (6) at 630-893-9670. Thank you for your time and attention.

Very truly yours,

Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress

PJR/mm

(b) (6) and I had meeting on Thursday September 20, 2007 at 10:00 am in the office of Congressman Roskam. I brought some questions to your attention about how the Navy and Commander Navy Installations Command (C.N.I.C.) are cutting back on fire protection for Navy families at Fort Sheridan and soon at Great Lakes.

In our meeting we talked about how the Navy is contracting out fire service when there is a moratorium on contracting out Federal Fire Service. They are doing this in their public/private venture. The Navy has a 50-year partnership with Forest City and the Navy is 51% of the partnership in this joint venture, then how can they contract out fire service to protect Navy and DOD families? The Navy still owns the land and is leasing it to Forest City to run its housing areas. "It is our foremost goal to create the highest quality environment for our military families," said (b) (6) Executive Vice President of Forest City Military Communities. This is not a true statement because they are dropping the fire protection standards set by DOD Instruction 6055.06 (subject DOD Fire and Emergency Service (F&ES) Program). They are moving and closing down one Engine Company with a daily staff of 5, to be replaced with a 2-man truck. When not on ambulance calls there might also be available a 2 man ambulance. That is just for the Army side of Fort Sheridan. The Navy housing side has again a 2-man engine and when not on an EMS call a 2-man ambulance. The second department is over one and a half miles away and both departments must cross over railroad tracks. When the Navy already has a 5 man engine company with firefighters who are Level II, EMT, and Haz-Mat technicians and meet all DOD standards along with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards which DOD adopted along with their own standards. It makes no sense to contract out services that do not meet current staffing. To go back to Mr. (b) (6) quote "highest quality environment for our military families" how is lowering standards for fire protection better for military families?

DOD's own standard for Fire and Emergency Service program states that staffing of an engine will be 4 persons on the first arriving company. How can a two-person engine match that? The 2 man Ambulance? Available only if not already on a call? From their own standards on the initial Full Alarm Assignment they must have 13 persons seen in the first 12 minutes at a minimum of 90% of the time. A total of 15 personnel in the first 22 minutes of the call. That means from the time that 911 gets the call the clock starts running and not when the first engine company arrives.

DOD and the Great Lakes Fire department have both agreed to meet NFPA 1710 standards as a safe and normal way of operating on fire and emergency scenes. That standard again is a minimum of 4 men on an engine. Naval Station Great Lakes and the International Association of firefighters Local F-37 has a negotiated agreement signed by all parties and approved by Secretary of the Navy along with a Memorandum of Understanding on the NFPA 1710 along with DOD 6055.06 of December 2006, which all agree with the NFPA standard of a minimum of 4 men on an engine. Along with the negotiated agreement that states no contracting out fire protection. If all parties agree that a staff of 4 is the minimum for safety standards then how can Great Lakes change its' numbers under a public/private operation where the Navy still owns the land and is 51% holder in the operations? How can they still protect the lives of military families who

loved ones are serving our country here and overseas? How is Fort Sheridan not as important as Great Lakes? Great Lakes is keeping its' staffing at 4 personnel per company, along with firefighter II, EMT and HAZ-Mat Technician level of certification for its' personnel.

Another topic we discussed was Great Lakes being the only Naval Training Center, why are they cutting and closing down an engine company? The base has not gotten smaller, actually it has been growing in both buildings and personnel. The Navy and the C.N.I.C. must not care about how it services its' personnel nor the type of service they get. The Navy and C.N.I.C. just close an engine company that is needed and keeps the base safer for again outside departments to come in and do the job. Their main goal is to get their EMS Ambulance Transport Mission of the ground and running. When we were told at Great Lakes well over a year ago that the department would be taking over the ambulance, we were also told we would be hiring 14 new personnel to step up the program. This all came down from the Fire Chief, Director of Public Safety Commander Naval Region Midwest and the Union President. We are taking over the ambulances next month. Where are all the new personnel? Why is an engine company being shut down to accommodate the ambulance transport program?